



Frequently asked questions about stray

Prepared for law enforcement
and human service
agencies

UNWANTED AND STRAY ANIMALS

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (AC&C) runs lost & found as well as adoption centers for stray and unwanted dogs and cats. We also impound dogs in police

emergencies, quarantine dogs and cats that have bitten a human being, and assist law enforcement agencies with animal-related issues, including animal cruelty or abuse, in the unincorporated areas of the County and the cities/towns that we contract with. AC&C field officers do not pick up cats



our centers.

Once a dog or cat comes into an (AC&C) Animal Care & Control Center as a stray, meaning we don't know his owner, he is held a minimum of 72 hours in the hopes of finding the owners. If the animal is wearing identification, micro chipped or tattooed, we will attempt to contact the owner and hold the animal up to 7 days. Unless an animal has clear identification, has been impounded in a police related situation and the police tells us who the owner is or, AC&C is told otherwise, the animal will be impounded as a stray. In general, animals will not be held longer than the normal 72-hour or 7-day holding period without a court order. Therefore, law enforcement officials need to keep in close contact with AC&C during investigations.

Once the holding period is up, animals are evaluated for their temperament and health to determine if they are eligible for adoption.

Please call (602) 506-PETS any time between the hours of (7:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Christmas and Thanksgiving) for assistance with a stray or aggressive dog. Please call (602) 506-1309 if you are a police officer or dispatcher needing assistance after hours. **This number is not to be given out to the public!** All other parties should call their local police department after hours in the case of an animal emergency.

therefore, we rely on local law enforcement and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office to enforce State statutes (13-2910) and local ordinances. Members of the public are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement agency if animal cruelty is witnessed.

AC&C will assist law enforcement agencies with cruelty investigations when animal handling, medical care and experts are needed. *We strongly encourage all law enforcement agencies to take animal abuse seriously and enforce the laws.* If a law enforcement agency is involved in an animal cruelty case and needs our assistance to impound an animal, if possible, please contact us in advance so our staff can prepare and maintain appropriate records. Remember, unless told otherwise, all impounded animals will be considered stray (held for 72 hours) or Hold (if an owner is known, 7 days). If you are charging someone with animal cruelty please follow up with AC&C staff and send a court hold immediately. Without the court hold, we are obligated to return the animal to the owner if they claim him.

INJURED ANIMALS

AC&C's STAR program will provide needed medical care to sick or injured stray animals in an emergency situation. If you encounter an injured animal, contact our Call Center at (602)506-PETS. An animal control officer will bring the animal into our clinic who will assess the



Signs Suggestive of Animal Neglect, Abuse or Cruelty

Lack of food or water:

Animal is underweight or has no water available.

Lack of shelter:

Animal is contained in an area exposed to inclement weather.

Severe matting or filth:

Un-groomed, stinky, greasy or filthy coat.

Poor body condition:

Underweight, open sores, hair loss, tick or flea infested.

Lack of Veterinary care for illness or injury:

Limping, broken limb, congested eyes & ears.

Lack of sanitation:

Feces and/or debris covered living area.

Abandonment:

especially if grown into the neck (includes regular collars)

Tired or caged:

With little room to move.
Unable to stand or turn.

Burns:

Chemical or heat.

Trauma:

Shooting, stabbing, strangling, beating.

Multiple wounds or fractures:

In various stages of healing.

Poisoning / Drugs:

Mutilation:

Including ear cropping, tail docking and neutering at home.

Evidence of fighting:

Especially Pit Bull Terriers.
Including training implements, treadmills, spring poles, etc.